

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 07143 01 OF 02 141200Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 AGR-05 TRSE-00 /076 W

----- 128827

R 132100Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7333

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 7143

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT MEDICI DELIVERS CONTROVERSIAL SPEECH

REF: BRASILIA 6992

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH SINCE LEAVING OFFICE TWO YEARS AGO FORMER PRESIDENT MEDICI ADVOCATED WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION AND ATTACKED LIBERALISM. HIS SPEECH, DELIVERED IN VINTAGE HARD-LINE RHETORIC, CAUSED WIDESPREAD COMMENTARY, GENERALLY PLEASING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CONSERVATIVES AND WORRYING MODERATES. IT HAS PROVOKED ALL KINDS OF SPECULATION. IT HAS BEEN INTERPRETED AS A SIGNAL, RELATED TO THE ELECTIONS OF 1978, RALLYING THOSE WHO DISTRUST OR ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL'S STYLE AND POLICIES; THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS OF CURRENT FRONT-RUNNER, GENERAL FIGUEIREDO. END SUMMARY.

2. EX-PRESIDENT MEDICI (1970-1974) SPOKE ON JULY 15 AT VICOSA IN MINAS GERAIS AT A CEREMONY HONORING HIM FOR HAVING ESTABLISHED FUNRURAL, AN ORGANIZATION PROVIDING SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS TO THE RURAL SECTOR. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH SINCE LEAVING OFFICE MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO HE SPOKE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 07143 01 OF 02 141200Z

ABOUT A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS (INCLUDING UNDERDEVELOPMENT, OVERDEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT, AGRICULTURE). WHAT ATTRACTED

NATIONAL ATTENTION, HOWEVER, WERE HIS COMMENTS ON SUBVERSION, DELIVERED, ACCORDING TO "VEJA" MAGAZINE, IN TERMS REMINISCENT OF THOSE HE USED WHILE IN POWER. "THE WAR ON SUBVERSION IS DECLARED IN CLEAR AND CATEGORIC TERMS EVEN AS SPECIAL METHODS ARE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT IT WELL." MEDICI ALSO NOTED THAT "IN RAISING THE BANNER OF COMBAT" LIBERTY IS NOT DENIED. RATHER, THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION IS A DEFENSE AGAINST THOSE WHO, MAKING USE OF THE GUARANTEES OF THE STATE OF LAW, ARE IN REALITY INTENT ON DESTROYING IT BY DENYING ALL LIBERTIES. HE SAID THE "INCONSEQUENTIAL" ADVOCATES OF LIBERALISM ARE "VICTORIAN" IN THEIR OUTLOOK AND DON'T REALIZE THAT WHAT THEY FAVOR WOULD DESTROY WHAT THEY SEEK TO DEFEND AND EASE THE ADVANCE OF TOTALITARIANISM. THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE FIGHT, HE MAINTAINED, AIMS AT PRESERVING PERSONAL AUTONOMY, SO THAT EVERYONE CAN FULLY DEVELOP HIS OWN PERSONALITY, STUDY WHAT HE WISHES, CHOOSE HIS OWN PROFESSION, ACQUIRE PERSONAL PROPERTY THROUGH FREE ENTERPRISE, BEHAVE ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF WHATEVER INSPIRES HIM AND MOVE UNIMPEDED IN AN ENVIRONMENT "OXYGENATED" BY LIBERALISM. GOB SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER NASCIMENTO E SILVA, WHO WAS PRESENT, CALLED THE SPEECH "VERY OPPORTUNE IN THE SENSE OF REVIVING THE SENSE OF DIRECTION THAT THE 1964 MOVEMENT BROUGHT TO THE COUNTRY AND THE SENSE OF SHOWING THE CONTINUING HARMONY OF THE FOUR REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS."

3. THE SPEECH PROVOKED WIDESPREAD COMMENTARY IN THE PRESS AND AMONG POLITICIANS. LIBERAL MDB SENATOR PUALO BROSSARD WAS PREDICTABLY AND SHARPLY CRITICAL. WHILE NOT PROFESSING LOVE FOR THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT, BROSSARD STATED IT INHERITED MANY OF BRAZIL'S PRESENT PROBLEMS FROM THE MEDICI REGIME. ACCORDING TO BROSSARD, "POLICE TERROR FLOURISHED UNDER MEDICI" AND "EVEN TODAY COMMITMENTS TO POLICE TERROR ARE RE-ARTICULATED BY THE SOURCES OF ANTI-LIBERALISM." PRESITGIOS O ESTADO DE SA PAULO CRITICIZED THE SPEECH IN SEVERAL EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES; A FREQUENT THEME WAS MEDICI'S LACK OF CREDENTIALS TO CRITICIZE LIBERALISM. IN ONE EDITION THE NEWSPAPER NOTED MEDICI HAD IMPOSED "AN IRONCLAD CENSORSHIP ON THE PRESS AND A REVERENTIAL FEAR IN POLITICIANS." IN A LATER
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 07143 01 OF 02 141200Z

ARTICLE O ESTADO SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESS WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PRINT A SIMILAR SPEECH BY A FORMER PRESIDENT IN MEDICI'S TIME. O ESTADO ALSO NOTED THAT "DURING THE MEDICI REGIME THERE WAS AN OBSESSIVE TENDENCY TO CONSIDER SECURITY AS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIAL ORDER." IN A LATER EDITORIAL, O ESTADO WENT ON TO CRITICIZE SARCASTICALLY MEDICI'S CHOICE OF AN AGRICULTURAL FORUM TO MAKE A SPEECH IN WHICH HE ADOPTS THE ROLE OF A THINKER WHO KNOWS THE HEART, THEORY, AND PRACTICE OF LIBERALISM. O ESTADO EDITORIAL CLOSES WITH A LISTING OF THE ABUSES OF THE MEDICI REGIME

AND PRAISES THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT WHICH" "IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, IS TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ABOVE ALL, POLITICAL QUESTIONS THAT THE FORMER GOVERNMENT BEQUEATHED TO IT."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 07143 02 OF 02 141233Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 AGR-05 TRSE-00 /076 W

----- 129080

R 132100Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7334

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILA 7143

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE REFERENCES TO SUBVERSION WERE NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE HEAR FREQUENTLY TODAY, ESPECIALLY IN ORDERS OF THE DAY OR ON PATRIOTIC OCCASIONS, THE FACT THAT IT WAS MEDICI HIMSELF REPEATING VINTAGE HARD-LINE RHETORIC PLEASED CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CONSERVATIVES AND WORRIED MODERATES. IT WAS A SIGNAL RELATED TO THE GUBERNATORIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS OF 1978 RALLYING THOSE WHO DISTRUST OR ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL'S STYLE AND POLICIES. IN TERMS OF STYLE, PERCEPTIVE POLITICAL COLUMNIST CASTELLO BRANCO ON AUGUST 2 COMMENTED THAT MEDICI CONSIDERED HIMSELF A DELEGATE OF THE REVOLUTION (I.E. THE ARMY). CASTELLO BRANCO CLEARLY, ALTHOUGH BY IMPLICATION, SUGGESTED GEISEL IS LESS SUBJECT TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARMY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR AND HAS A BROADER COMMITMENT. IN TERMS OF POLICIES CASTELLO BRANCO NOTED MEDICI CONSIDERS UNREALISTIC GEISEL'S POLICY OF DISTENSÃO AND OTHER MOVES TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION.

5. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT MEDICI'S RE-ENTRY INTO THE PUBLIC ARENA TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE IS RELATED TO THE GUBERNA-

TORIAL ELECTIONS OF 1978. TWO STAUNCH MEDICI SUPPORTERS, FORMER
FINANCE MINISTER DELFIM NETO AND FORMER TRANSPORTATION
MINISTER MARIO ANDREAZZA, ARE KNOWN TO ASPIRE RESPECTIVELY
TO THE GOVERNORSHIP OF THE STATES OF SAO PAULO AND RIO
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 07143 02 OF 02 141233Z

DE JANEIRO. PRESS SPECULATION ON THE SPEECH IS INTENSE.
"VEJA" MAGAZINE IN ITS AUGUST 11 ISSUE SUGGESTED MEDICI
MAY BE SEEKING THE GOVERNORSHIP OF HIS NATIVE STATE OF
RIO GRANDE DO SUL. THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US. IN THE
SAME CATEGORY OF UNREALISTIC SPECULATION WAS THE FOLHA DE
SAO PAULO EDITORIAL OF AUGUST 10 WHICH SUGGESTED MEDICI
MIGHT EVEN BE CONSIDERING A RETURN TO THE PRESIDENCY.
FINALLY, REFLECTING THE FERTILE BRAZILIAN PROCLIVITY FOR
CONSPIRATORIAL AUTOPSIES OF POLITICAL EVENTS, THE RECENT
SUSPENSIONS OF POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ONE CASSATION AFFECTING
THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF RIO GRANDE DO NORTE STATE AND
FIVE OTHERS FOR CORRUPTION DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION (SEE
REF) HAS ALSO BEEN LIKED OCCASIONALLY TO MEDICI'S RETURN TO
PUBLIC FORUMS AS A COUNTER BY THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT. THE
CORRUPT FORMER GOVERNOR OF RIO GRANDE DO NORTE
WAS A MEDICI APPOINTEE. AS PART OF THE GENERAL SPECULATION,
THERE IS A COUNTERVAILING THEORY ACCORDING TO WHICH MEDICI,
AWARE OF PENDING MOVES AGAINST HIS APPOINTEES, MOVED TO
PREEMPT, FORESTALL OR ATTENUATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH
ACTION BY THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT.

6. ON JULY 30 MEDICI WAS TO HAVE ADDRESSED SOME UNIVERSITY
LEVEL GRADUATES IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
IN SAO PAULO. INSTEAD, HE SENT MARIO ANDREAZZA AS HIS
SURROGATE. ANDREAZZA SEVERAL TIMES STRESSED HE WAS SPEAKING
IN BEHALF OF MEDICI. IN A SPEECH DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO
DEFENDING FREE ENTERPRISE--IN ITSELF POSSIBLY INTENDED TO
APPEAL TO BUSINESS SECTORS WAGING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST GROWING
STATISM--AND PRAISING BRAZIL'S FUTURE AND PROGRESS SINCE
1964, ANDREAZZA ECHOED MEDICI'S EARLIER FORMULATION THAT
NO PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE SO LONG AS SUBVERSION, TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, SEEKS TO DESTROY THOSE
LIBERTIES. SINCE ANDREAZZA'S SPEECH MEDICI HAS TWICE MORE
TAKEN PART IN PUBLIC CEREMONIES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT
MEDICI HAS ADOPTED A STRATEGY IN WHICH HE WOULD ONLY SPEAK
OCCASIONALLY USING SURROGATES TO KEEP HIS HARD-LINE
MESSAGE BEFORE ITS INTENDED AUDIENCES.

7. FINALLY, THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT MEDICI'S
PUBLIC STATEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE
PROSPECTS OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SNI) CHIEF,
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 07143 02 OF 02 141233Z

GENERAL FIGUEIREDO, WHO APPEARS TO BE THE THE CURRENT FRONT-RUNNER AMONG THOSE ARMY GENERALS WHO ASPIRE TO SUCCEED GEISEL. FIGUEIREDO, BASICALLY A HARD-LINER, WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MEDICI'S OWN PREFERENCE AS HIS SUCCESSOR, BUT FIGUEREIDO, FOR VARIETY OF REASON, IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH THE GEISEL CANDIDACY. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL07143
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760313-0625
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760857/aaaabxgv.tel
Line Count: 231
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRASILIA 6992
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER PRESIDENT MEDICI DELIVERS CONTROVERSIAL SPEECH
TAGS: PINT, BR, (MEDICI, EMILIO GARRASTAZU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006